

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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TO BE TAKEN AWAY

THE
Catholic Citizen

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society), 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1.

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Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give ;
Who knows the gifts which you shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve ?

—Francis Thompson.

Women in France

By GABRIELLE VALLE GENAIRO

*The Position of Women in Contemporary France**, by Frances I. Clark gives a fairly complete and accurate view of this question. Mrs. Clark groups the results of a minute and careful enquiry in six sections: the economic position; education; marriage and divorce; religion; feminism—and under these heads includes all the different aspects of the situation. The period under survey is from the French Revolution onwards, but includes glimpses of the France of the *Ancien Régime*, whenever this has seemed necessary for an understanding of the present.

Quite rightly the author puts forward as the coping stone of feminist achievement the entry of women into industry for a personal wage. A great many French women have always worked, but mainly in agriculture or in the very numerous small enterprises, that is to say always for the family budget, the family being represented by the husband. The woman who, in the first thirty years of the 19th century went into the spinning and weaving factories which preferred her to the man because, though just as skilful, she was content with a smaller wage, began the conquest so filled with significance, of the economic independence of the woman from which everything else has gradually resulted. From this badly paid work, women have steadily risen to better things, then, so soon as they had gained an education equal to a man's and were therefore able, they have entered the professions. Girls in France now receive the same education as boys and there is no doubt that the desire of families to provide them with a means of earning their living has caused this assimilation.

The chapter on the different methods of approach to women's work of the *Confédération Générale du Travail* and the *Syndicats*

Chrétiens is excellent. The *Confédération* whose end is the dictatorship of the proletariat and means, the class struggle, admits women in mixed syndicates where their position is, in principle, the same as that of the men but where, because they are much less numerous, their influence is naturally less great. It is undeniable, however, that thanks to the *Confédération* the position of women has greatly improved.

The *Confédération des Travailleurs Chrétiens* works on the contrary for the collaboration of the classes. It syndicates were therefore at first open to employés and employers equally but this provision has been abandoned as unworkable except in agriculture where the interests of the one and the other are more identified. The *Confédération des Travailleurs Chrétiens*, has women's syndicates where women's interests and aims are more particularly taken into consideration.

The chapter dealing with marriage and divorce is also very good. In France as everywhere else in the world the diminution of religious beliefs, individualism, an increasing search for "amusement," perhaps also the stupidity of the law in not admitting the equality of the spouses, has caused a loosening of the conjugal tie. There are increasingly divorces and free unions. But Mrs. Clark shows in the chapter which follows, the influence of the Catholic Church which, remaining very great in France, will probably prevent this state of things from getting worse. If Catholicism is nominally not as widespread as formerly it certainly exercises a more profound influence over its adepts. Religion is more respected, even among those who do not practise it, and unbelief is no longer as in the scientific epoch at the end of the nineteenth century, considered as a proof of intellectual superiority. Both

* (P. S. King, 12s. 6d.)

Catholicism and Protestantism benefit by this revival of religious belief to which women have undoubtedly contributed their part. Women render immense services to the Catholic Church and play a considerable part in her works of mercy. The French Protestant Church has conceded a certain place to women in its pastorate.

The last part of the book treats of the feminist situation, of the associations which conduct the feminist struggle, of their struggles with Parliament and of the attitude of the political parties in their regard. The author divides the women's associations into "independent" and those societies which are more or less connected with a party or group of parties, according to the way in which they work. The struggle in Parliament began at the beginning of the century but was hardly serious until the end of the war. It was in 1929 that for the first time the *Chambre des Députés* voted a bill which would give French women franchise and eligibility. Since then the *Chambre* has proposed several bills giving to women either complete political equality or only the municipal vote—this last in the hopes of overcoming the resistance of the Senate more quickly and making some kind of a beginning.

But all efforts in this direction have been in vain up till the present. The Senate has always either adjourned the bills submitted to it, for several years, or else, after a long delay, rejected them—both those which concern the municipal vote only and those giving complete political rights. But it would seem that the author in noting the emphasis put by the Senate on the argument that the woman's vote would reinforce the influence of "clericalism" (doubtless an argument made use of rather than believed by the Senators) has not given the real reason of Senatorial opposition to the municipal vote. The real fact is that the senators are elected by a restricted suffrage, i.e., an electoral college formed chiefly of the representatives of municipal councils, and if there were women in these councils the election campaign of the unfortunate candidates would be very complicated. They would have to take into consideration not only the male point of view but the female, and evidently it would be rather difficult after having promised the men not to touch the sacred rights of those all-powerful electoral agents the "pubs" to promise the women to limit their number in order to diminish their own and their children's misery. It is, then, at bottom their own interest which the Senators hide modestly under pompous formulas such as: "the tombstone of

the Republic" or the "interest of their party."

We cannot finish an account of this excellent book without emphasising an anomaly which forces itself on our attention. How has it been possible to abolish restrictions on the full intellectual development of women, such as those on their entry into the different trades and professions, where they have amply justified themselves, and yet so obstinately to refuse them that civil and political equality which ought logically to have resulted from the place which they occupy in the nation's economy? Briefly the reasons may be given as the following. The French, accustomed for so long to the very great part played by women in the economic world have fairly easily adapted themselves to the modifications for its conservation dictated by circumstance. Resistance to other reforms, moreover, comes not from the average Frenchman but from the political man accustomed to consider everything from the party angle. The woman's vote is obviously the plaything of the policy of: "I'll give you this if you let me refuse that" indulged in by the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. As for the women, the majority of them are not interested in anything which does not promise an immediate advantage. They will make an effort to obtain a better salary or insist on obtaining the training on which depends their entry into a certain career but they do not see the necessity of insisting on the recognition of their civil and political equality, on which depends all the rest and which is the only means of conserving the rights already gained. Added to this those who are feminists are too divided. The feminist societies do not sufficiently pass over their differences in order to co-ordinate their efforts in view of a common aim. Too many "workers" hesitate to co-operate with the independent societies (whose ranks are open to them) under pretext that twenty or thirty years ago they were founded by the "bourgeoisies." As if it were not quite natural that this was so since at that time the "bourgeoisies" were the only women with sufficient leisure and culture to be able to found societies. Many feminists have gone in for party politics. They run the risk of being submerged by men, of inculcating the virus of narrow party spirit, and among the most ambitious, of letting themselves be side-tracked from feminist aims by the lure of personal honours. It will only be when they have understood the necessity of a common front and (as in England) of sacrifices made to a common cause that French women will at last obtain the rights which they have sought so long.

Notes and Comments

We send congratulations to the Right Hon. J. A. Lyons, whom we are happy to count among our members, on his return to office as Prime Minister of Australia in the recent General Election. He is the only Australian Prime Minister to be returned to office three times. We feel sure that Dame Enid Lyons has had a great deal to do with his success and we venture to send her warm congratulations also.

We are glad to learn that the Minister of Health and President of the Board of Education are to set up a Committee under the chairmanship of the Earl of Athlone to enquire into the status and recruitment of nurses. The terms of reference are:

To inquire into the arrangements at present in operation with regard to the recruitment, training, registration, and terms and conditions of service of persons engaged in nursing the sick, and to report whether any changes in those arrangements or any other measures are expedient for the purpose of maintaining an adequate service both for institutional and for domiciliary nursing.

On November 5th, Mr. Stanley Holmes moved the second reading of the Inheritance (Family Provisions) Bill. The reading was passed without a division.

The measure provides that a spouse or children left without reasonable provisions for maintenance shall have the right to appeal to the court, which may make such provisions as it thinks fit from the estate of the deceased husband and father, or wife and mother.

A few months ago some notes on "The Place of Women" in two issues of the *Westminster Cathedral Chronicle* hardly did credit to that organ. At the time we said we had expected better things from the *Chronicle* and we have to repeat this phrase in connection with an article—"Modern Woman and Lost Values" by Ignota which appears in the November issue. The article glories so undisguisedly in masculine superiority, and, apart from this, seems so pointless that when we had finished reading it we wondered if it was meant as a bad joke. Here is a paragraph selected at random.

"As every girl baby that is healthy and normal is already a future mother in embryo, she is handicapped by nature from the very beginning in the way of freedom. She is restricted as a man never is. In certain countries a man can have not one, but several wives, without detriment to the race. No woman who desires to be the mother of children can possess such freedom. Neither are women endowed, as a rule, with a man's physical strength and emotional control."

And again:

"... being women, they must always occupy more or less the position of the under-dog."

Why does this kind of thing appear in a *Christian* magazine?

A particularly interesting broadcast this month is the Midland Parliament on 15th December when the subject for discussion is "Should Men and Women Get Equal Pay?" The speakers so far arranged are: Chairman, Alderman S. J. Grey, ex Lord Mayor of Birmingham; John Wedgwood of the Pottery Firm; W. M. W. Thomas of Wolsley Motors, for employers; with Ann Loughlin, Tailor and Garment Workers, and Harold Clay, Transport Union, for employees and trade unionists.

On October 20th, under the auspices of the British Commonwealth League, a farewell party was given to Mrs. Linda Littlejohn who was leaving shortly for Australia. Many Women's Societies took the opportunity of bidding Mrs. Littlejohn God Speed, and there were many farewell speeches. Miss Barry expressed the regret of St. Joan's Alliance that Mrs. Littlejohn was leaving England and its appreciation of her wholehearted work in the feminist cause during her stay here. We felt sure, said Miss Barry, that our Australian Section would benefit from the co-operation we were losing here.

St. Joan's Alliance was represented at a one day Conference of Women's Organisations convened by the Women's Freedom League on October 29th at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. Under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Corbett Ashby the Conference considered the subject of Women and Election Policy.

Once again we ask our readers to show their generosity in connection with our stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair on December 14th and 15th at the Central Hall, Westminster. We need goods to sell and buyers to buy. Bring your friends and be prepared to buy your Christmas presents at our stall and if everyone will co-operate we guarantee to have the things you will want. Suggestions as to gifts include home-made jams, cakes, sweets and provisions, stationery, calendars, handkerchiefs, soap, bath-salts, household linen, perfume, overalls. Please will everyone send something and as many as possible be there.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER, *Hon. Editor.*

Women's Education in East Africa

The Report of the Commission on Higher Education in East Africa was issued at the beginning of October. Appointed last autumn, the Commission went out to East Africa early in 1937 under the chairmanship of Earl De La Warr, at that time Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The report deals more especially with Uganda where is situated Makerere College "the institution to examine which" the Commission was "primarily appointed." Kenya and Tanganyika, however, also figure in the report. The terms of reference expressly include the consideration of "the educational needs of women."

"We believe that she (Africa) is capable of the not unambitious programme we have proposed" states the commission, and throughout the report there is an attractive faith in the future of Africa which, together with very many of the recommendations, must commend itself to all right-minded people. However, certain vague phrases give us cause for alarm. Of the "new Africa": "This new society will possess its own moral and other sanctions which in some respect will be partly Western and partly African and in other respects neither African nor Western."

We had always thought the moral law was one and undivided and we venture to declare that those who think otherwise with regard to Africa will find themselves in difficulties. In the emphasis put upon what Europe can teach the native it seems to be forgotten that all that is best in Europe has sprung in the first place from Christianity. Again there is a reference to "tribal justice." We shall protest with our dying breath that justice is justice. There is only one justice—it has no need of adjectives.

There are many other indications of an

entirely secular outlook which does not really take into account the spiritual side of the native and which unconsciously falls into the error of regarding education as merely utilitarian. "While Africans readily appreciate the material advantages of education, they are not blind to its value in itself," writes Dr. Murray in the minority report. While noting the majority report's recommendation that governments should continue to assist the educational work of the missions, we must take our stand with Dr. Murray in his view that "the government, instead of embarking on a large programme of 'direct' education, should as a general rule refrain from this, and should make grants, on the basis of close inspection, to the missions for the various undertakings developed and to be developed by them."

"I think it highly undesirable to debar or discourage the missions from experiments and innovations on modern lines . . . The heavy responsibilities for education which I desire to see laid on the missions are not too heavy, in view of the signal advances which the missions, with little help from the Government and for long with none, have already made. With funds and security they may be expected to do far better still."

In the main body of the report there is frequent insistence on the necessity of girls' primary and secondary education though one wades through the chapters on the developments in the training for various careers, to be undertaken by the Higher College, in a vain hope for a reference to women. There is, however, a slight reference to women in the chapter on "Vocational Schools." In all fairness, we must quote a statement on page 54: "Among educated Africans there is impatience with the comparative slowness in the development of girls' education and some would welcome a government girls' school." Apparently—"in girls' secondary education no mission schools

exist" though the report assumes that "besides establishing its own girls' secondary school the government would be prepared to facilitate and assist the institution of secondary education for girls by the missions."

The utilitarianism already referred to seems unfortunately to have penetrated into the chapter on "Girls' Schools." Girls are not to be educated for their own sakes. "The function of women's education is to train home-makers." The commissioners were assured by African witnesses "that an unmarried woman following a professional career would command respect in her community." The commissioners comment: "We value these assurances, but at the same time we should be sorry to feel that anything in the educational scheme would discourage women, however highly educated, from marrying." We quite agree with the commissioners, but there is more in this than meets the eye. Those who have read our statement to the League of Nations on the position of the women of "native" races will remember that one correspondent insists that if the "native" girl had the chance of a profession as a way of gaining her livelihood instead of depending solely on marriage for this end, there would be less likelihood of her coercion into a marriage which she detested. Again, in Africa where practically every woman marries is it really necessary to impart our essentially English idea that women must retire from professional life on marriage? ("It is true that early marriage means a short life professionally," etc.) Will it not retard women's professional education considerably if those in charge of it feel that the greater proportion of those they train will not employ their gifts for the uplift of their people? Will it not defeat the ends of the commissioners themselves—not to discourage marriage? For many women of an independent spirit will say to themselves, "I have got to choose between working for my people and marriage—well then I will choose not to marry." But we will continue to quote the report.

"In the words of Mr. Kayamba 'girls should be made not to forget that their primary place in the community life is that of mothers of their own people rather than as wage earners . . . great care should be taken to see that girls who have been removed from their parents and kept in a boarding school do not develop customs which are alien to their people and which make it difficult for them to obtain husbands.'" (italics ours.)

It is true that "the educated married woman is not 'wastage,'" and that, "If you educate a man you educate an individual, but educate a woman and you educate a family." But why should it be "necessary" for girls to stop being teach-

ers, nurses, midwives and school matrons on marriage? For instance is midwifery to be restricted, as a profession, to the single woman, when it would be so easy and so fitting for the trained *married* women to practise it?

In India it is *married* women and widows who have applied themselves to village uplift among their own people. Are we going to make the professionally trained married African women (rare enough in the districts dealt with in the report) selfishly circumscribe her activities to her own family circle or should we allow her to widen out that circle to include the whole African family?

This said, we naturally see the force of the argument that educated men are not going to be satisfied with illiterate wives and that ill-educated mothers will retard the progress of the whole race and indeed we have often used these arguments ourselves. We are glad to see that without exception those who gave evidence urged that more attention should be paid to the education of the girls of school age and that help should be given where possible to the adult women to improve their knowledge of housekeeping. And we appreciate the many recommendations devoted to all aspects of girl's and women's education, e.g., Training of African Women Teachers, Domestic Science, Women in Higher College, Employment Outlets for Women, Nurses, Children's Nurses, Employment Bureaux, etc. An important recommendation is that of the appointment of a Director of Women's Education.

The Associations of the Gayaza High School Old Girls and Parents (Gayaza is a Church Missionary School) seems an advanced body. "The education of women as a whole must be quickened up by the aid of Government" they said in their evidence and they recommended that "in the Higher or Scientific Schools the following posts should be kept in view as the future careers of their students: school teachers, medical assistants (the only place where women doctors are envisaged), laboratory assistants, hospital nurses, midwives, dispensers and pharmacists, stenotypists and secretaries, farmers, domestic workers and dress-makers."

"The more a mother is educated the more she takes care of her children," said the County Chief of Budaka in his evidence before the Commission, and Mr. G. W. Mathew of the Kikuyu African Teachers Union stated, "We have come to realise that our progress will depend entirely on the proper education of women."

CHRISTINE SPENDER.

Mui Tsai

In the House of Commons, LIEUT.-COM. FLETCHER asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he proposed to promote legislation for Hong Kong and Malaya whereby all transferred children must be registered.

MR. ORMSBY-GORE.—In Malaya the Government of the Straits Settlement has decided to adopt in principle the recommendations of the Minority Report of the recent Mui-Tsai Commission. I hope that the Governments of the Malay States will reach a similar decision. In Hong Kong the problem in general presents special difficulties of effective control owing to the free movement of the Chinese population between the Colony and Chinese territory, particularly at this time with many thousands of refugees. The Colonial Government, however, announced its willingness to give effect to the proposals of the Majority Report, but before reaching any final decision I shall await an appreciation of the situation from the new Governor with whom I discussed the problem before he sailed from this country.

A deputation composed of eleven Societies and organised by the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society was received by the Colonial Secretary on November 4th. Among the speakers was that great worker for the abolition of Mui Tsai, Lt. Commander Haslewood. The deputation begged that there should be re-affirmation implemented by necessary legislation to uphold and enforce the general principle that a girl shall not be transferred from one person to another for a valuable consideration and that *all* transfers of girls should be notifiable.

While still feeling uneasy about the position in Hong Kong the deputation was greatly encouraged by the fact that the Government of the Straits Settlement had accepted the Minority Report and urged its acceptance by the Colonial Secretary.

The Alliance was represented by Miss Barry and Mrs. Laughton Mathews.

Geneva

We offer our warm thanks to Mrs. Shattock who afforded hospitality to the informal meeting given under the auspices of St. Joan's Alliance on October 20th, in order to hear the experiences of our representatives at Geneva during the League Assembly. The Misses Barry, Graham, Parnell and Spender were the speakers on this occasion, while Mrs. Shattock presided. The meeting was much enjoyed.

St. Joan's Alliance in Australia

Hon. Secretary: Miss Margaret Flynn, c/o The Catholic Central Library, Collins Street, Melbourne.

On September 16th members and friends of the Alliance gathered at the Scotts Hotel to give an enthusiastic welcome to our President, Dame Enid Lyons.

On behalf of the Alliance, Miss Isabel Gartlan presented Dame Enid with a gold St. Joan's badge inscribed with the date of the foundation of the Australian Section—March 25th, 1936. The Misses Anna Brennan and Kathleen Walsh (vice-presidents) and Miss Flynn made speeches of welcome to which Dame Enid replied in her usual inimitable manner. Speaking of the Coronation Dinner, she said that intense interest was being taken in London in the question of treatment of Australian aborigines. Public bodies were interested, and she congratulated the Alliance on making it the first point for its study.

Among those present were Rev. Frs. Corrigan and Malone, O.F.M., and Considine.

Mrs. Clarence Weber was another distinguished guest. She has been elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly—the first woman to be so elected—and was helped in her election campaign by a strong women's committee, on which Miss Walsh, one of our vice presidents served.

At our September meeting, Miss Walsh gave a very fine paper on the evolution of British feminism. At the October meeting, Sister McRae of the Marist Medical Mission of the Northern Solomons gave an impressive and touching address, in the course of which it transpired that she was quite accustomed to go among uncivilized "natives," cannibals and head-hunters with only her dog for companion! Sister McRae is in charge of a hospital founded by the Medical Mission in the Solomons.

At this meeting we were glad to welcome back from England our committee member, Miss Marie Carroll, bringing greetings with her from the Mother Society.

Miss O'Keefe now runs a class for speaking and voice production.

A complete file of volumes of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN has now been received from England and placed in the Catholic Central Library.

We should like to remind subscribers to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN to pay up, when their subscription is due, either to the Hon. Secretary of the Mother Society in London (55, Berners Street, W.1), or to Miss Flynn at the above address.

Reviews

A Code of Social Principles prepared by the International Union of Social Studies. (Catholic Social Guild. 6d.)

The International Union of Social Studies was formed in 1920 by Cardinal Mercier to study social problems in the light of Catholic ethics and to set up a centre of information on social matters. The social code prepared by the International Union was first published six years ago and is subject to periodic revision.

We note with regret that the Rev. V. McNabb, O.P., a very good friend of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, is no longer a member of the Mechlin Union, also that although many Catholic lay-members represent various nations on the Union Committee, there are no women representatives.

The contents of the code are derived so obviously from Catholic doctrine and encyclicals that it commends itself to Catholic readers and calls for no criticism, except occasionally in the manner of presentation.

The suggestions in paragraph 33, section vi, that the father of a family might be allowed besides his personal vote, others equal or proportional to the size of the household, may not be considered by everybody as likely to foster family unity.

An unfortunate evil, which at all costs must be eliminated, has compelled mothers, because of the smallness of the father's wage, to seek remunerative occupation outside the home.

This sentence would be clearer if its component parts were inverted and it were made perfectly plain that the evil is not remunerative work outside the home, but the necessity owing to the husband's underpaid labour for the mother to be *compelled* to seek work, when other duties would make her decide against this course. It would not seem desirable (as suggested) for public authorities to decide in individual cases of conscience. i.e.

It may be necessary for the public authority, when circumstances are favourable, to exclude mothers from all forms of work injurious to their family duties.

We may hope that these small discrepancies may receive the attention of a future revising Committee so that the Code of Social Principles may maintain and increase its usefulness.

F. M. S.

"Since 1935 husbands are no longer liable for torts committed by their wives, and married women are now sued in the same way as single women."

We apologise for having implied in our review of September 15th, that this information was omitted from *In the Eyes of the Law* by G. Evelyn Miles and Dorothy Knight Dix (Edward Arnold, 3s. 6d.).

C. S.

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Obituary

We deeply regret the death, at the age of 84, of Sir Johnston Forbes Robertson. Young playgoers of the present day knew him not, but to those fortunate enough to remember him, he will always remain a figure of romance, beauty, and dignity. Feminists remember too that Forbes Robertson supported the women's movement when it was a very unpopular one, and his devotion to St. Joan is shown in the speech he made in November, 1930, during the St. Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations organised by our Alliance. At the meeting under the presidency of Cardinal Bourne, to appeal for funds for her memorial church at Rouen, he said:

"Educated in Rouen as a boy, I can claim to be familiar with every stone of that beautiful city, perhaps the most beautiful city of monuments in the world . . . and I ask dear St. Joan to look down upon us and to pardon our great sin, and forgive us, as I know she does, with her noble generous heart."

We offer our deepest sympathy to Lady Forbes Robertson and her family, and also to Sir Johnston's sister, Miss Forbes Robertson, who is a member of our Alliance. May he rest in peace.

* * * *

As we go to press we are grieved to learn of the death on November 8th of Miss Gertrude Kingston, a great actress who found time to help actively in the Votes for Women Campaign, both by speaking and writing. She was a member of the Actresses Franchise League.

Miss Kingston planned and built the Little Theatre in Adelphi in 1910. She produced plays there and acted in them, and in 1928 she helped to found the Guild Players. During the South African War she helped as organising secretary of the Actors and Actresses Hospital Hut, and Lord Roberts gave her a special mention in dispatches.

The Alliance was represented by Miss Barry at the Requiem at Westminster Cathedral.—R.I.P.

* * * *

We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Mossetti, mother of our member Mr. Noel Mossetti, who died recently.—R.I.P.

We welcome the fact that the Women's Freedom League has once more seen its way to publish its official organ in print. *The Bulletin* is now to be printed once monthly. The W.F.L. trusts that it may be possible in the near future to print the weekly *Bulletin*.

Women Aviators

We congratulate Miss Jean Batten on her recent record breaking solo flight from New Zealand to England.

With the September-October number of *The Woman Engineer* comes an interesting account of the Annual Dinner at which many women eminent in engineering and aviation were present. Lt. Col. Sir Francis Sheldermine, C.I.E., O.B.E., Director General of Civil Aviation made reference in his speech to many women pioneers of aviation, whose names will go down to history. "The added prestige and advantages," he said, "to the commerce of the country which has the honour of claiming these women pilots as nationals, is incalculable."

Miss Amy Johnson in a stimulating response mentioned Pauline Gower and Dorothy Spicer as two of the most outstanding aviators in the country to whom the greater credit is due in that most of the training centres open to men are closed to women—as for instance the R.A.F., A.S.T., the College of Aeronautical Engineering, and D. H. Technical School. (Amy Johnson's own early training seems to have been achieved as by a miracle!) Her speech was a battle cry to women ambitious of success as engineers and aviators, who need great force of character as well as technical efficiency if they are to win the uphill fight.

Miss Martindale, retiring after 35 years as Inspector of Factories recalled the Dark Ages before emancipation when a Chief Inspector of Factories could write: "The duties of an Inspector of Factories would be incompatible with the gentle and home-loving character of a woman." Miss Martindale told how since 1893, women, in spite of being supposed to lack activity, acumen and authority have gradually worked their way up in this sphere until to-day there are seventy women inspectors, twenty-one in full charge of important districts. It would seem indeed, that inspection of factories is a work for which women are particularly well fitted. It is cheering to hear that under the present Chief Inspector of Factories women inspectors have a fair field and no favour. They are recognised and appreciated both by authority and in the factory. D. W.

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International Notes

An Irish correspondent reminds us that although we owe gratitude to the Irish delegation at Geneva for their contribution to the League discussion on the status of women, it must not be forgotten that three articles of the new Constitution of the **Irish Free State** are detrimental to that status. (See CATHOLIC CITIZEN, June 15th.)

Also no Irish women are employed in the higher grades of the Civil Service, women employees in other grades are dismissed on marriage and cannot be taken back if they are widowed; there were no women on the Commissions for unemployment and pensions; there are no women on the Censorship of Evil Literature Board or the Elections Board. There are no women police, and sports, legal and medical posts are in general advertised for men only though open in theory to both men and women.

The same correspondent informs us that not a single woman's Society in Ireland passed a resolution in favour of the new Constitution; all those who noticed it at all condemned it, except one which remained neutral.

* * * *

In reply to a question in the **Australian House of Representatives** on the subject of the £200,000 grant for the training and employment of youth, Mr. Lyons informed the House that:

A statement was made on behalf of the Commonwealth Government by the Assistant Minister for Commerce at the conference of State and Commonwealth Ministers on youth employment held in Melbourne in February, 1937.

"It is satisfactory to note that there is very little unemployment amongst women and girls. The figures indicate that there has been a substantial increase of female labour in industry during the past ten years."

The statement was based upon information supplied by a responsible officer of the Commonwealth after personal contact with the Departments of Labour and private organisations in three States and after an examination of the figures regarding the employment of females in all the States of the Commonwealth.

The employment figures made available by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics shows a satisfactory increase since July, 1933, in the number of females employed in all States of the Commonwealth.

The conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers on youth employment held in Melbourne, in February, 1937, unanimously carried a resolution that:

"The term 'youth' shall include all males under the age of 25 years not attending an educational institution."

The Commonwealth Government will be glad to confer with any State Government which wishes to bring girls as well as young men within the scope of the proposals.

We are glad to be able to state that in the Republic of **Ecuador** women have not been deprived of the franchise. At one time it was feared they would be deprived of the right to vote in the July elections at which time a Congress was elected which, sitting also as a constituent Assembly, was to reform the Constitution. S. A. B.

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HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

There are many members of the Alliance who have not yet paid their subscription for 1937. We should be very grateful if they could do so as soon as possible, and a donation towards the rent at the same time would be most acceptable. There is a notice about the Christmas Sale in another part of the paper. Please make a point of reading it—note the dates and save some money for the occasion.

We still need old clothes, etc., for the Barrow!

C. J. GARRARD.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Miss Bowden, 22 Fern Grove, Liverpool, 8.

A meeting was held on November 5th, through the kindness of Mrs. McCann, at her home in Croxteth Road. An interesting talk entitled "A Novice on the Bench" was given by Miss Blackburn, J.P., who is one of our newest magistrates.

We hope to arrange a Jubilee Dinner and theatre party in the near future, to which we shall invite members from headquarters and Oldham.

We very much regret the departure of Mrs. Maxfield and offer our thanks to her for having undertaken the office of Hon. Treasurer over many years. She is now in Watford, where we feel sure she will be a great asset to headquarters.

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